

Press Release

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Huntington Corps of Engineers changes command

HUNTINGTON, W.Va...Col. William E. Bulen, Jr. will take command of the Huntington District, Corps of Engineers office in a Change of Command ceremony at 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, July 15, 2003, at Huntington City Hall Auditorium.

Col. Bulen will replace Col. John Rivenburgh, who will take command of the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center in Huntsville, Ala., in August.

Presiding over the Change of Command ceremonies will be Brig. Gen. Steven R. Hawkins, Commander of the Corps' Great Lakes and Ohio River Division located in Cincinnati. The purpose of a change of command ceremony is to emphasize the continuation of leadership and unit identity despite the change in individual authority. The ceremony also symbolizes the transfer of command responsibility from one individual to another. Passing the ceremonial flag from the old commander to the new commander physically represents this transfer.

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Col. Bulen's most recent assignment was as Joint Staff Engineer for the Alaska Command. Most recently he has been a student at the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

The Huntington District area includes 45,000 square miles in W.Va., Ohio, Ky., Va., and N.C. Within this area the 1,000 people of the Huntington District oversee water resource management activities to include commercial navigation, flood control, recreation at Corps constructed lakes and wetland protection. The district also serves as the engineering agency of choice for many other government entities. The economic impacts of the Huntington district are significant, broad based and touch directly or indirectly every resident of the region. Our work results in contractor employment, significant purchases of products, services and materials throughout the region, as well as the benefits of flood damage prevention, flood-free areas for development, and a navigable channel through which low sulphur coal and other commodities gain access to a world market. The district has received awards for quality performance and was a Presidential Quality Award finalist placing it among the top eight government agencies in the nation.

(Media note: Gen. Hawkins, Col. Rivenburgh and Col. Bulen will be available for interviews immediately following the Change of Command ceremony)